

APPENDIX

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

SECRET

JCSM-684-61
29 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Rotation of the Berlin Augmentation
Battle Group (U)

1. To provide a political and psychological demonstration of the US attitude in regard to the Berlin situation, one Seventh Army battle group was deployed to Berlin on 20 August 1961.

2. USCINCEUR has assumed the political situation will require a continued augmentation of the Berlin Garrison for an indefinite period. Therefore, for training and morale reasons, he has proposed that Seventh Army augmentation battalions rotate in and out of Berlin approximately every two or three months. He has stated that the rotation could be phased over several days. However, he and his subordinate commanders concerned desire to exchange these groups as single elements. He has further stated:

"Rotation plan has been prepared which envisions movement reinforced Battle Groups in and out of Berlin by administrative motor convey along Helmut-Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn, with all equipment except tracked vehicles, troops to be in combat uniform. Normally, relief will be effected from Schweig-Helmstedt area with relieved Battle Group leaving Berlin same day and relieving Battle Group moving into Berlin next day. Should circumstances so dictate, relieving force will be moved in first. Plan also makes adequate provision for communication and control of units traversing Helmut-Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn."

3. In order to accomplish rotation, preclude rumors in Germany and to reaffirm the US determination to maintain augmentation forces in Berlin as long as required, USCINCEUR has stated:

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOE DIR 8200.10

~~SECRET~~

"Recommend early decision on this matter with authority to theatre commander to announce the policy at time he deems appropriate followed by minimum publicity at the time of exchange which would then be announced as routine. Upon approval of rotation policy contemplate that US officials in Berlin will brief Mayor Brandt, with public announcement to follow thereafter."

4. The Joint Chiefs of Staff support USCINCEUR's views, providing not more than three battle groups are in Berlin at one time, and recommend that you obtain approval for dispatch of the attached message which authorizes General Norstad, at his discretion, to initiate and publicly announce the rotation of augmentation battle groups into and out of Berlin, and that he provide the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Defense, well in advance, the date rotation will commence and the public announcement which will be released.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

L. L. LEMNITZER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment

• Anna Norstad